FROM BRAZIL.

A Happy People Who Enjoy One Continual Round of Pleasure.

One Hundred and Thirty Feast Days ... Social and Religious Observances.

Special Letter PARA, BRAZIL. Feb. 1 .- The historian has given to the civilized world what is known and accepted as a "history of Brazil." I have often heard it said that Brazil is comparatively unknown, and I am led to believe that there is much truth in the assertion. No two histories of this country are alike. We all know when and by whom the country was know when and by whom the country was discovered; we know of the Spanish and Dutch conquests, and sgain of the triumph of the Portuguese armies. We know, too, the area of territory, the estimated population, and the names given to its great rivers. We know also of the enormous production of coffee, sugar, and rubber, but aside from this we know but little. When you pass beyond a sixty-mile limit back from the sea, except in remote cases, the country is a vast waste and little or nothing is known of it or of its inhabitants. The emperor, Dom Pedro II, who has ruled in comparative peace for forty-four years, is a The emperor, Dom Fedro II, who has ruled in comparative peace for forty-four years, is a man of superior education and great refinement, speaking many languages, and is known throughout the civilized world as a "wise ruler." He is in truth a wise ruler, but, unfortunately, his wisdom does not enable him to dictate or to enforce a progressive policy, and the country stands to-day about where it was when he ascended the throne in 1840. When his father, Dom Fedro I, abdicated the When his father, Dom Pedro I, abdicated the throne he left the country largely in debt, which year by year has largely increased, until now it has assumed gigantic proportions, rith not a very favorable outlook for an early

To the feregoing statement as to a lack of progress there may properly be noted an exception in favor of the province of Para, the northernmost province of the empire, the capital city of which, Para, with a population of 150,000, being the entry port for all merchandise to and from the upper Amizon countries.

Roman Catholicism is the state religion of Brazil, though others are tolerated—I emphasize the word tolerated. Missionaries and church associations other than Boman Catholic make little or no progress in this country, and it is not unfrequently that missionaries are set upon by the natives and often driven back to the scaport cities, where they are comparatively safe. Yet in the city of Rio de Janeiro less than four years ago a mission school of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, located in the very heart of the city, was attacked by a mob; paving stones and other missiles were nurled through the windows, and the occupants of the house Roman Catholicism is the state religion of stones and other missiles were nursed through the windows, and the occupants of the house were compelled to flee for their lives. The Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, who was at that time United States minister to Brazil, and who is identified with the church above named, was present on the occasion reterred to, and with others was obliged to flee from the ruch.

The Catholic religion as taught and prac-ticed in the United States is so different from that of this country that one can hardly be-

that of this country that one can hardly be-lieve they spring from the same mother church. But so it is, and one sees many strange sights, and hears such remarkably strange things in this country.

The religious feast days of Brazil number 133 days every year, when business is almost entirely suspended, the banks and custom houses being closed, and work of all kinds delayed for another day. Some days are ob-served wholly in earnest church service, while others are made grand gala days, when bazars line the streets, civil and military processions are a feature, while on other days processions are a feature, while on other day processions are a feature, while on other days regattas and horse races are in order. Then, again, each province has its own separate feast days, which are in addition to those celebrated throughout the empire, and, per-haps, the most interesting of all is "The Feast of Nazareth," celebrated only in the province of Para, a partial description of which I will give here:

give here:
In the year 1530 the first expedition to the north of Brazil made what is now known as North Cape, and attempted to enter the mighty Amazon. The frail bark bearing this mighty Amazon. The frail bark bearing this expedition was caught in the sorroue, or tidal wave, of the Amazon, which comes only with the full of the moon and in this particular locality, was wrecked and nearly all on board were drowned. One small boat was launched and put off with four souls on board, one of whom was a priestaent out by the Portuguese government to establish a church where the

As the little boat was swept on by the surging tide, and tossed about on huge waves surging tide, and tossed about on huge waves caused by countor currents and wind against tide, all hope seemed lost. The priest prayed earnestly to Jesus of Nazareth that they might be saved. After days and nights of suffering, the legend says that the clouds separated, and in the clear sky there ap-peared the patron saint, when, almost imme-diately the waters became caim, and the little host was washed early upon the above where peared the patron saint, when, almost immediately the waters became calm, and the little boat was washed gently upon the shore where now stands the city of Para. Savage Indians surrounded the shipwrecked mariners, but instead of putting them to death they were kindly received and cared for, and worshiped as gods thrown up from the sea. Thank offerings were given, and in the name of the holy church that day was proclaimed as the "Feast of Nazareth," and destined ever afterward to be celebrated by every good Catholic on the banks of the Amazon. The feast extends over a period of ten days, from the first to the tenth of November, and is celebrated by the church with great pomp and rejoicing, while free license is given to every one to "go as you please," and the church undertakes to protect all. Public gambling houses are opened in the principal plazas, where men, women, and children go there in promiscuous crowds, each "fighting the tiger" after his or her own idea. Bishops and priests, government ollicials and private citizens, master and slave, all gather on one

priests, government officials and private citi-zens, master and slave, all gather on one common bent, and in this way renew and repeat their thank offerings each year to the patron saint of Nazareth. W. P. F.

Prospect of a Lively Time in the House. Mr. Phelps, of New Jersey, will report back to-day from the committee on foreign affairs the resolution of inquiry of Representative Brumm as to whether the ministers of any foreign power had endeavored to nullify the effect of a unanimous resolution of the house by reflections on the honor and in-tegrity of its members. The report will state that the committee could find no evidence, and sak to be discharged from forther consideration of the subject. The pre-sentation of the report is looked forward to with interest, owing to the probability that the occasion may be used by Mr. Hewitt or the occasion may be used by Mr. Hewitt or Mr. Belmont to transfer to the floor of the house the personal controversy which was waged between them last week in the committee room. An effort may be made to recommit the resolution to the committee, with instructions to make further inquiry. Such a motion would be strenuously resisted by the committee, who think they have done all their darks in the recognition. their duty in the premises, and in the con-tention others than the gentlemen named may be brought into a lively debate.

Hard to Find.

Sergeant-at-Arms Leedom, of the house of representatives, who has been in New York for several days endeavoring to serve a subpena upon John A. Walsh to secure his ap-pearance as a witness before the Springer committee, yesterday telegraphed Mr. Springer that be had not yet succeeded in serving the subpena, although he had visited all the places which Mr. Walsh was said to frequent.

Interstate Commerce.

The nouse committee on commerce yesterday concluded the consideration of Mr. Stewart's bill to regulate interstate commerce and provide for the appointment of a commission. The bill has been amended so that pooling and paying robates are prohibited. A final vote, it is expected, will be taken at the meeting of the committee next Friday.

Fitz-John Porter Bill.

The bill for the relief of Fitz-John Portor, hich Senator Sewell reported favorably yesterday from the committee on military affairs, | committee to-day.

is the bill which passed the house some time ago, with an amendment striking out the provision for the restoration of Porter to "all the rights, titles, and privileges" of the rank held by him at the time of his dismissal from the army. Thus amended, the restoration provided for by the bill is simply to the position of colonel of the same grade and rank as was held by him at the time of his dismissal. This makes the bill identical in its provisions with the bill which passed the senate last winter. is the bill which passed the house some time senate last winter.

Mr. Springer to the Attorney General. Representative Springer yesterday sent a letter to the attorney general in reply to a recent communication written to the latter by Mr. Ker, a special counsel for the government in the star route cases, in which Mr.

by Mr. Ker, a special counsel for the government in the star route cases, in which Mr. Ker invoked the attorney general's aid to prosecute A. M. Gibson, a former agent of the department, for handling papers before Mr. Springer's committee, and changing them to the injury of the ex-counsel. In his letter, Mr. Springer says that no paper giving information in the star route cases has ever been referred to the committee, and that Mr. Gibson has had no connection with the committee, and has never been employed by it in any capacity whatever.

Mr. Springer further says: "I do not know whether Mr. Gibson is a proper person to handle papers and vouchers or not, although employed by the government in that kind of service several months; but the committee has had no occasion to require his service. You may therefore assure Mr. Ker that, so far as the committee is concorned, it will not be necessary to invoke your power to protect any person against A. M. Gibson and persons of like charactor. The committee will begin the investigation of star route cases Monday next, and Mr. Ker and Mr. Gibson will both be called before the committee at the proper time to explain their connection with such prosecutions." prosecutions.

Getting Ready to Go North. The United States training ship Saratoga, Commander William H. Whiting commanding, was taken out of the dry dock at the navy vard. Brooklyn, vesterday, and the dock is now being prepared to receive the Bear, one of the vessels of the Greely relief expedition. The coal and stone ballast is being removed from her, and it is expected that she will be ready her, and it is expected that she will be ready to put in the dock on Saturday next. The materials for extending her deck house and strengthening the vessel's decks and hull are now being prepared as rapidly as possible, and as soon as the coal and ballast is out the work will proceed very rapidly. A large force will be employed in building boats, sledges, &c., already ordered for the outfit of the three vessels. As soon as the vessel is docked the chief constructor will go to New York to give personal directions relative to the work required, in addition to that already decided upon.

decided upon. The Mails and Dangerous Medicines. The house committee on postoffices and postroads yesterday agreed to report favorably Representative Springer's bill to extend the issue of postage penalty envelopes for the transmission of official mail matter to all transmission of efficial mail matter to all officers of the government, including members of either house of congress. A similar report was also directed on Representative Bingham's bill providing that any person who shall forge or alter a postal money order of the United States, or a note of any foreign country, payable in the United States, shall on conviction be punished by a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment at hard labor for not less than two nor more than five years. Representative Bingham was instructed to report adversely bills to prevent the use of the adversely bills to prevent the use of the United States mails to advertise noxious and dangerous medicines, foods, and compounds.

Increase of Pensions. The house committee on invalid pensions yesterday agreed to report favorably Representative Matson's bill increasing the pension of widows and dependent parents of do-ceased soldiers and sailers from \$8 to \$12 per month.

Col. Dudley, commissioner of pensions, appeared before the committee, and urged that 150 more examiners be allowed his office, in order to facilitate the business of the office. Representative Price also appeared before the committee and urged the passage of his bill, to pension every person who served in the late war. The committee signed a letter to the secretary of the interior, asking him to increase the rate of pensions paid to persons who had lost an eye. No rate of increase was recommended.

To Increase Pensions.

The bill introduced in the senate yesterday by Senator Voorhees, to amend the pension laws, provides for an increase of the pensions of persons who lost an arm or a leg or were equivalently disabled by a gunshot wound to \$50 per month; of those who lost a leg by amputation and are unable to wear an artificial leg, those who lost an arm by amputation at the shoulder, and those who are totally disabled from performing manual labor to \$60 per month, and of those who lost an arm and a leg, both arms, both legs, or both eyes, or have become totally blind from causes occurring in the service or have suffered any other injury resulting in total and nermanent helplessness requiring the regular. permanent helplessness requiring the regular personal aid and attendance of any person, to

The German Liberals Thankful. Speaker Carlisle has received a letter addressed to him personally by several of the most prominent members of the liberal party in the German reichstag, expressing their high sense of appreciation of the action taken by the house of representatives as a token of respect for the memory of the late Herr Lasker. The letter expresses the hope that the two nations may develop and continue in friendship. Among other signatures are those of V. Bunsen, who visited America during the past summer, and Frederick Kapp, formerly a lawyer in New York, members of the executive committee of the liberal rate. ral party.

The senate committee on appropriations yesterday had up for consideration the joint resolution introduced in the senate by Mr. Ransom to provide for the appropriation of \$100,000 for the relief of sufferers by the storm of the nineteenth instant, in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, but reached no conclusion in the matter. The military academy appropriation bill, which reached the committee from the house yesterday, was referred to a subcom-mittee, consisting of Senators Logan, Rausom, and Call. and Call.

Assistant Secretary Clary.
At a special meeting of the board of di rectors of the Washington Gaslight company yesterday the office of assistant secretary was vesterday the onice of assistant secretary was created, and Mr. James D. Clary, for many years chief clerk, was elected to the position, Mr. Clary is a native of the district, a man of rare business tact and energy, and his many friends will be gratified at the honor just con-ferred upon him.

The McPherson Bill in the House At a meeting of the committee on banking and currency yesterday, the committee, by a vote of 8 to 4, authorized Mr. Wilkins to report to the house the McPherson bill as it passed the sonate, Messrs. Ruckner, Potter, Miller, and Yaple voting in the negative.

Army Supplies.
Representative Slocum was authorized by the house committee on military affairs yesterday to ask the appropriations committee to insert a proviso in the army appropriation bill directing all supplies sold to officers and soldiers to be sold at cost.

Melville to Accompany the Greely Relter Expedition. It has been decided that Chief Engineer George Melville will accompany the Greely relief expedition as engineer of the advance ship Thetes, which will be commanded by Capt. Schley.

The Postoffice Appropriation.

The subcommittee of the house appropria

tions committee considering the postoffice bill completed its work yesterday, and Mr. Town-shend was directed to report it to the full

KING HOG.

Valuable Report on the Swine Industry of the United States.

Commissioner Loring has laid before the President the report of the commission appointed to examine the swine industry or the United States and into the allegations rela-live to the healthfulness of pork products. The inquiry embraces the origin and history of hogs which make up the market supply, their condition on farms, the methods of management, transporting, treatment at stockyards manner of slaughtering, curing, packing, handling, and shipping of pork pro-ducts, the effect and extent of hog disease, necessary preventive measures, and the effect necessary preventive measures, and the effect of the curing process on trichine. The methods of breeding and rearing and fattoning of swine in the great hop-producing regions are elaborately set forth, and the report is emphatic that there is no condition surrounding the industry which tends to propagate disease or render pork unhealthful. It finds the number of hogs raised annually to be about 30,000,000, making a total of cured meats, lard, and other products of 4,725,000,000 pounds. The report points out the practicability of a microscopic inspection if such is necessary to remove existing restrictions. The commission state that their examination proves our pork fully equal, perhaps superior, to that of France or Germany. No general disease exists, and the occasional presence of triching is comparatively unimportant. In conclusion the report says: "While we believe that no legitimate ground exists for the restriction moment foreign countries. that no legitimate ground exists for the re-strictions imposed in some foreign countries on the importation of American pork, we are satisfied that microscopic inspection of all pork for export can be secured at the packing houses if such inspection should be de-manded."

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